the construction of Banspani-Daitari Railway Link over 146 K.M. and if so, at what cost; and

(b) what is the amount spent so far on the construction till date?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Since no work has been approved on Daitari-Banspani rail link no expenditure has been incurred on the project.

Consumer movement

1193. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken to aid, support and encourage consumer movement in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that adequate support and direction has not been forth-coming from Government to voluntary organisation dealing with Consumer Protection Movement;

(c) the details of steps taken in 1990 so far to increase public awareness about consumer movement;

(d) whether Government have taken any steps in different parts of the country to encourage the general public to form associations and organisation to demand for better service, quality products and stop over-pricing;

(e) the details of the concrete steps taken in this regard;

(f) whether Government have sought any public cooperation in combating the recent price rise, both through awareness and economising consumption of scarce items; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL): (a) to (g) Government has taken a number of steps to develop a strong and broadbased consumer movement in the country. Such steps include giving representation to the representatives of consumer organisations in various Committees/groups formed for the welfare of consumers; amendment of major legislations such as Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954, etc., to empower the consumers and registered consumer organisations to file complaints in the Court; enactment and enforcement of Consumer Protection Act, 1986; organisation of National, regional and State level seminars; publishing of literature in the field of consumer protection and distributing them free of cost; institution of 2 National Awards for Youths and Consumer Organisations, etc. The three-tier redressal machinery under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 provides an effective legal forum to consumer organisations to redress grievances in the field of defective goods, deficient services, unfair trade practices, etc. Since 1990, Government has re-introduced the scheme of financial assistance to voluntary consumer organisations. It has also started a weekly programme entitled 'Apne Adhikar' from 28 Kendras of AIR. In addition, it has conducted one training programme in Pune for voluntary consumer organisations. One booklet and 4 post card size material in the field of consumer protection have also been published and distributed free of charge to voluntary consumer organisations;

Government has accorded highest priority to check the rising trend in prices and is taking long-term and short-term measures for this purpose.

इलाहाबाद और वाराणसी के बीच छोटी लाइन को बड़ी लाइन में परिवर्तन करना

1194. **श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय :** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार इलाहाबाद और वाराणसी के बीच की छोटी लाइन को

बड़ी लाईन में परिवर्तित करने का विचार रखता है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस योजना को कब तक कार्यान्वित किया जायेगा?

रेल मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (श्री अजय सिंह) : (क) जी नहीं।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Rise/decrease in losses due to leakage of revenue in Railways

1195. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of rise, decrease in the losses in the Railways due to leakage of revenue during 1988, 1989 and 1990, till date;

(b) what are the areas of revenue where leakage is identified; and

(c) what measures have been taken/proposed to be taken by Government to plug the loopholes to curb the malpractices and to identify the persons involved in corrupt practices?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) The amount of leakage is not quantifiable.

(b) Ticketless travel, carriage of unbooked luggage and parcels, resale/reuse of tickets, sale of fake tickets, underweighment of consignment and non-accountal of catering sales etc.

(c) Steps taken to prevent leakage of revenue include measures like frequent inspections, regular ticket checking including massive concentrated checks etc.

Besides, vigilance organisation conduct preventive checks in areas where leakage takes place and investigate complaints received from various sources to bring the defaulters to book.

While charges, as due, are recovered from the defaulting rail passengers, in some cases defaulters are also prosecuted.

Action is also taken against erring railway staff in proven cases of misdemeanour.

Standard of Indian test laboratories

1196. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the PHD Chambers of Commerce and Industry has suggested that the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) should equip Indian test laboratories to arrange for their accredition with European Community authorities so that the test certificates could be issued in India itself;

(b) if so, what is the further reaction of the Government on suggestions made by PHDCCI; and

(c) what other changes BIS propose to make in their testing laboratories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. However, according to the information made available by the European community, there is no formalised accredition of laboratories prevailing in the Community. Hence, mutual acceptance of test reports amongst the EC and India will be on the basis of bilateral agreements between the member countries of EC and India.

(b) The Government of India is already aware of the need for having such an arrangement.

(c) With a view to improve the acceptability of Indian products already subjected to certification and testing in the Indian laboratories, it is necessary that the testing laboratories and the quality assurance sys-